



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL
**NEW ZEALAND MUSLIM SPORTS
ASSOCIATION INC.**

PO Box 22 396, OTAHUHU, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Affiliated to Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand

In Association with FIJI MUSLIM FANCA (Fiji - Australia - New Zealand - Canada - America) SPORTS FEDERATION

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Monthly

Newsletter

December 2013

“Sport has the power to change the world”: Nelson Mandela

By; Zee Roar
Guru

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Springboks.



Today, two countries put aside their hostility to unite and pay respect to the greatest man of our time, the man who put aside his struggles to unite his nation.

Nelson Mandela used sport to unite South Africa's black and white divide, which is why he will forever be remembered as a warrior of peace.

“Sport has the power to change the world”, it unites, it gives a hapless person a cause, and empowers nobodies to stand up and fight for a cause.

Supporters of differing sports and teams seem to have a unconditional bond with that sport and club, and the late Mandela's words cannot be any truer.

Sport helps break down barriers, it brings us and them together in a way no other field can do – it's the magic of it.

The image of Madiba handing over the 1995 World Cup trophy to Francois Pienaar galvanized a country – a simple gesture of a black man handing over a white man's trophy to a white Springbok is one of the most remarkable images of all time.

The Springboks' underdog win against the All Blacks was a symbol of Mandela's fight against apartheid.

And it was poignant his last public appearance came at his country's most redefining moment on the world stage

– the 2010 FIFA World Cup – and was a symbolic gesture in celebrating South Africa's democracy.

That special World Cup shined a light on a once-divided country, it highlighted its good, but raised awareness of its bad – the health and social divide that still exists between the countries bordering villages and cities.

Mandela never conceded the fight was over, and he continued fighting the cause until his battered body surrendered peacefully.

The scenes in the 2010 World Cup were beautiful, reminiscent of the 1995 final.

The country was united behind its national team and the cause, and Mandela's fight for unity and peace was recreated in the football stands and the pitch.

May Madiba rest in eternal freedom – it's been a long walk to freedom, and his walk affected many aspects of South Africa, especially sport.

Muslims Pray For Mandela

(Ahlul Bayt News Agency) World Muslims worldwide have paid tribute to the late international icon Nelson Mandela, as South Africa Muslims called for prayers for the former president, his family and friends.

“The greatest gift one can give to a human being is freedom and that is what Mandela did for all South Africans,” Ganief Hendricks, a leader of Al Jama-Ah political party, said in a statement cited by South Africa's Independent.

“The party has asked all Muslims to

observe all protocols as Muslim leaders from every Arab and Muslim country visit South Africa over the next two weeks to pay their respects to the country and comfort South Africans.”

Paying tribute to the departing leader, Hendricks said that Muslim world had the highest regard for Mandela.

The party would pay tribute to Mandela by feeding the poor and participating in other programs over the next week, said Hendricks.

Speaking in a nationally televised address, President Jacob Zuma announced Mandela's death late on Thursday.

President Zuma added on Friday that Mandela will be buried on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Moreover, a memorial service in a Johannesburg stadium will be held for the anti-apartheid leader on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Zuma said that Mandela's body will lie in state at government buildings in Pretoria from Wednesday, Dec. 11, until the burial.

Jailed for 27 years for fighting white minority rule, Mandela became South Africa's first black president in 1994.

Mandela won a Nobel Peace Prize for preaching racial harmony and guiding the nation peacefully into the post-apartheid era.

Mandela, popularly known by his clan name “Madiba”, has a history of lung problems dating back to his time at the windswept Robben Island prison camp near Cape Town.

Muslims make up some 1.5 percent of South Africa's 53 million population, according to the CIA fact book.



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20 Year Anniversary Celebration

and

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New Zealand Muslim Sports Monthly Newsletter

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Br Usman Ali takes on as the Interim Secretary

Br Usman Ali has been appointed the Interim general secretary of the New Zealand Muslim Sports Association to fill the unoccupied position for a short while until the elections early next year.

Previously Br Usman Ali was the executive committee of NZMSA and was affiliated to Wellington Muslim Soccer Team.

The President of NZMSA Br Sheikh Israr welcomes Br Usman Ali, onboard as the new office bearer and hopes his experience as a journalist will help the association to a newer direction

for the betterment in the book keeping areas.

With less than a year left for us to host FANCA in New Zealand Muslim Sports we will have to work hard starting now to have a thriving tournament.

New Zealand winning the FANCA main division of soccer for the first time in 2006 when it was hosted in Auckland, NZ and then in Hayward, USA in 2010 when New Zealand also won the masters over 35's and the tug of war competitions. The Under 21's won their division in Sydney, Australia in 2008.

Veterans over 42's was introduced for the first time in Fiji last FANCA and New Zealand lost to Canada in the finals.



Br Usman Ali

email: secretary@nzmsa.co.nz

"Insha Allah" New Zealand should be able to hold most of the cups back here in next FANCA with a very optimistic approach by the committee.

Aussie Muslims Use Sport to Break Barriers

(Ahlul Bayt News Agency) - In a bid to break cultural barriers, a sports tournament has been organized in Sydney to encourage Muslim and non-Muslim women to cooperate to nurture a new generation of sporting leaders.

"Sport is seen as a more male-dominated zone so they don't really encourage females in their family or household to take part in that," Assmaah Helal, Go Active coordinator, told SBS.

Assmaah is one of the coordinators who have long dreamed of offering Muslim women an opportunity to practice sports in an environment that respects their religious beliefs.

In the Go Active tournament, more Muslim and non-Muslims participants were encouraged to get involved for many reasons, including not having to worry about community expectations.

Men are also not allowed and there is no dress code in a private area.

Participants say the event has given them the courage to break through barriers.

"Playing a sport isn't just about the physical part of it," former Afghan refugee Shegofa Hassani said.

"You also gain other skills like com-

munication and leadership and confidence that will stay with you throughout your life."

Islam sees hijab as an obligatory code of dress, not a religious symbol displaying one's affiliations.

Muslims, who have been in Aus-

tralia for more than 200 years, make up 1.7 percent of its 20-million population.

Islam is the country's second largest religion after Christianity.

Many participants praised the unique tournament for offering them a chance to practice sports for the first time in their life.

For tournament participant Ayse Akca it is the first time she has ever played sport.

"Now that I've finished school I wanted to get out there and be more active," she told SBS.

As a Muslim Australian, she found an all-women's indoor event less confronting than other options.

"Just being close together, having fun



with the girls and not having to worry about everything" are part of the appeal, Ms Akca says.

The family of Hassani, 17, has initially disapproved of her involvement.

"I pushed the boundaries basically," Shegofa Hassani says.

"I didn't have their support but over the past five years I've gained their support, especially [from] relatives, which is a great thing because I can play the sport I love."

Seeing the success of the event, coaches and mentors announced plan for more events like this.

They say their aim is to foster a love of sport in more Muslim women so some can progress from a recreational level to an elite level.



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FIANZ is the National Body in New Zealand caring for the religious, social and cultural needs of the Muslim community of New Zealand. In addition, FIANZ is also the Halal Authentication Authority for meat export for New Zealand and for domestic markets, including retail food outlets, takeaways & restaurants.

OUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

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- ★ Investment & Funding
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- ★ Education Development
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